

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 13 and ending on page 16, line 16, with the following amended paragraph:

In one preferred embodiment of the subject Patent system, illustrated in Figs. 3A and 3B, the means for displacing the flexible tube slit portions 18 comprises a wire control device 20. The wire control device 20 has a first end 22 (not shown), a second end 24, ~~and a length 25~~ and is composed of a metal or non-metallic material with a predetermined stiffness and flexibility. In addition, the wire control device 20 has a means for reversibly locking the wire control device 28. The first end 22 of the wire control device 20 is fixedly secured to an inner wall of the closed proximal end 12 of the catheter 10. The wire control device is located within the catheter in a longitudinal and substantially coaxial relationship to the catheter 10 and its lumen. The wire control device is free to be slidably displaced by pulling on the second end 24 of the wire control device, which may have formed an easily manipulatable shape, as illustrated. The wire control device 20 has a length 25 that is greater than the length 14 of the catheter 10. By applying tension to the wire control device 20, thereby withdrawing more of the wire 20 out of the catheter 10, the closed proximal end 12 is displaced distally, as seen in Fig. 3A and 3B, thereby causing the flexible tube slit portions 18 to buckle and assume the shape as seen in the first configuration 16. By pushing the wire

control device 20 in a proximal direction, the displaced flexible tube slit portions 18 are pulled straight, thereby changing the catheter system 10 configuration from the open first configuration 16 illustrated in Fig. 3B, to the closed second configuration 17 as seen in Figure 2. In order to retain a desired configuration 16 or 17 of the catheter system 10, there is included a means 28 for reversibly locking the wire control device that is adjacent to the open distal end 13 of the catheter 10. The means 28 for reversibly locking the wire control device in a desired predetermined position may include a screw-type locking diaphragm which reversibly clamps down on the wire control device 20 so as to prevent its slidable displacement in either direction. Other locking means are well known in the art and may be substituted for the above-mentioned reversible locking means 28.